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Abstract of the Disclosure

A portal server includes a software agent configured to do summary searches for subscribers based on Internet destinations provided by the subscribers, to retrieve information from such destinations based on preprogrammed site information, and to download the summary information to the subscriber. The destinations and the nature of the information to be retrieved is pre-programmed. There is further a configuration and intitiation interface for a subscriber to set up and start a summary search. In some cases the summary searches are configured for individual clients as templates stored and retrieved at the Internet-connected server. Also in some cases retrieved information is immediately sent to the subscriber, and in other situations such information is saved at the portal to be retrieved by a subscriber at a later time. In preferred embodiments of the invention autologins are accomplished for a subscriber at Internet destinations by use of pre-stored configuration information.